

REMARKS

The applicants acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of the Final Office Action mailed August 3, 2005. Claims 21-32 are pending. All claims were rejected under 35 USC § 102 over Dutta et al. It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the amendments and comments herein, all claims are patentably distinct over the art of record and in condition for allowance thereover.

Background

By way of review, the subject application teaches a system by which a recently accessed control key is replicated as a secondary, programmable key to facilitate reuse of that previous key. Thus, during frequent times when a recently accessed key must be again accessed thereafter, a user does not have to find the earlier key to reaccess an associated function. This is particularly advantageous in situations in which an access function is nested in a series of menus or is previously accessed only after entry of a series of earlier choices.

Dutta Patent

Dutta is directed to a touch screen keyboard which allows a user to input information to customize a touch screen interface embodiments wherein a user is provided with hints as to which keyboard characters are used most or next, so as to allow for predictive entry of subsequent key strokes.

Claims 21-32 are In Condition for Allowance Over Dutta

Turning to independent claim 21, amendment has been made to further clarify the distinctions thereof with Dutta. As will be appreciated by the foregoing, the subject system provides a "sticky key" by which a recently used function is associated with a soft or programmable key. While Dutta contemplates user-selected key functions, it does not contemplate assigning a most recently used function to a secondary key to allow for quick re-access to that function. Dutta is directed to a customizable user interface, and contemplates a user interface which allows for predictive key entry to assist data entry. As noted above, assigning a recent function to a programmable or soft key is particularly advantageous when used in a document processing environment. This is not disclosed in Dutta, nor is it conducive to the application and environment contemplated by Dutta.

Thus, claim 21 as amended includes limitations far removed from the teachings of Dutta. Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be patentably distinct thereover and in condition for allowance. Claims 22-26 provide further limitation to the subject matter of independent claim 21. Accordingly, for the reason noted above, these claims are also in condition for allowance over Dutta.

Independent claim 27 has been amended analogously to claim 21. Accordingly, claim 27, as well as claims 28-32 which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance over Dutta.

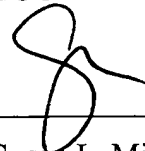
Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendments and comments, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims are patentably distinct over the art of record and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any uncovered fees, or any overpayments, necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/14868.

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Respectfully submitted,
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